Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1-18 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 8, 17-18 stand rejected. Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication that claims 2-4, 6-7 and 9-10 are allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action sets forth at page 2, paragraph 3, "Claims 1, 5, 8, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US Pat. No. 4,782,567 (Kanaya et al.)." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

Applicants' invention as recited in claim 1 includes features not disclosed or suggested by Kanaya, namely:

> ...at least one turning unit with double chucks to support the workpieces being machined and a turning head designed to work alternately in association with one or other of the double chucks...
>
> ...at least one first workpiece loading/unloading device for moving the workpieces being machined to one or other of the double chucks so that workpieces are loaded/unloaded from one of the double chucks at the same time as mechanical machining is being performed on the other of the double chucks...
>
> ...at least one drilling unit operatively associated with the turning unit and including at least one first drilling head combined with at least one corresponding first workpiece-holding means...
>
> ...at least one second workpiece loading/unloading device for moving workpieces being machined in the at least one drilling unit...

> ...the first and second workpiece loading/unloading devices being further incorporated into the equipment to move the workpieces undergoing machining towards and away from one or other of the turning and drilling units so that mechanical machining in the drilling and turning units takes place at the same time as the operations of loading and unloading workpieces onto and from the equipment. (Emphasis added)

These features are described in applicants' specification, for example, at page 2, line 26 through page 5, line 24.

Applicants' invention is a machine for turning and drilling light alloy wheels in which the change over time or "dead time" between subsequent operations is substantially reduced from that of the prior art. The device comprises at least one turning unit with double chucks to support the workpieces being machined, at least first and second workpiece loading/unloading devices each of which are incorporated into the equipment to move the workpieces toward and away from one or the other of the turning and drilling units such that mechanical machining in the turning and drilling units takes place at the same time as the operations of loading and unloading the workpieces onto and from the equipment.

Kanaya discloses a mechanical machining system comprising a wheel stocker 12, for storing the wheels, a wheel pick-up robot 14 for picking up wheels from the stocker, a transfer device 16, a plurality of machining stations ST1, ST2, ST3...in line with each other along one side of the transfer device, a respective loading robot 26, 28, 30,...facing each machining station ST1, ST2, ST3,...disposed on the other side of the transfer device, each machining tool (in the machining station) comprises a jig unit having a head rotatable through 180°. Column 4, line 52-63. According to Kanaya, in operation, each wheel is initially picked up by robot 14 and transferred to the first station ST1, where the wheel is machined with loading/unloading operations performed by the corresponding robot 26. This is repeated for each following machining station and the transfer device 16 is provided to convey the wheels along the machining line. Kanaya does not disclose or suggest, however, at least one first workpiece loading/unloading device for moving the workpieces being machined to one or other of the double chucks so that workpieces are loaded/unloaded from one of the double chucks at the same time as mechanical machining is performed on the other of the double chucks, at least one second workpiece loading/unloading device for moving workpieces being machined in the at

least one drilling unit, and the first and second workpiece loading/unloading devices being further incorporated into the equipment to move the workpieces undergoing machining toward and away from one or other of the turning and drilling units so that mechanical machining in the drilling and turning units takes place at the same time as operations of loading/unloading workpieces onto and from the equipment.

In contrast, Kanaya discloses a single pick-up robot 14 and a plurality of loading robots 26, 28...each of which is exclusively associated with a corresponding machining station. This is different from applicants' claimed invention comprising at least one first workpiece loading/unloading device for moving the workpieces being machined to one or other of the double chucks so that workpieces are loaded/unloaded from one of the double chucks at the same time as mechanical machining is performed on the other of the double chucks, at least one second workpiece loading/unloading device for moving workpieces being machined in the at least one drilling unit, and the first and second workpiece loading/unloading devices being further incorporated into the equipment to move the workpieces undergoing machining toward and away from one or other of the turning and drilling units so that mechanical machining in the drilling and turning units takes place at the same time as operations of loading/unloading workpieces onto and from the equipment.

It is <u>because</u> applicants have included the features of at least one first workpiece loading/unloading device for moving the workpieces being machined to one or other of the double chucks so that workpieces are loaded/unloaded from one of the double chucks at the same time as mechanical machining is performed on the other of the double chucks, at least one second workpiece loading/unloading device for moving workpieces being machined in the at least one drilling unit, and the first and second workpiece loading/unloading devices being further incorporated into the equipment to move the workpieces undergoing machining toward and away from one or other of the turning and drilling units so that mechanical machining in the drilling and turning units takes place at the same time as operations of loading/unloading workpieces onto and from the equipment, that applicants are able to provide a mechanical machining device that is able to reduce the change over time or dead time between subsequent operations. Kanaya fails to achieve this advantage because Kanaya does not have at least one first workpiece loading/unloading device for moving the workpieces being machined to one or other of the double chucks so that workpieces are loaded/unloaded from one of the double chucks at the same time as mechanical machining is performed on the other of the double

chucks, at least one second workpiece loading/unloading device for moving workpieces being machined in the at least one drilling unit, and the first and second workpiece loading/unloading devices being further incorporated into the equipment to move the workpieces undergoing machining toward and away from one or other of the turning and drilling units so that mechanical machining in the drilling and turning units takes place at the same time as operations of loading/unloading workpieces onto and from the equipment.

Because Kanaya fails to disclose each and every feature of applicants' claimed invention, applicants submit that the rejection of claim 1 as being anticipated by Kanaya is improper, should be withdrawn and the claim allowed.

Although not identical, claim 8 includes features similar to those of claim 1 and, thus, is likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1.

Claims 2-7 and 9-17 depend upon claim 1 and claim 18 depends upon claim 8. Accordingly, these claims are likewise not subject to rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to claims 1 and 8.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Office Action sets forth at page 3, paragraph 5, "Claims 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanaya." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the reasons set forth above with respect to the 35 USC 102(b) rejection.

The Office Action sets forth at page 4, paragraph 6, "Claims 1, 5, 8, 17 and [18] are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanaya in view of US Pat. No. 1,838,995 (Johnson et al.)." Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the reasons set forth below.

The Office relies upon Johnson for disclosing "machine tools which have one or more tool-carrying spindles...." Johnson fails to make up, however, for the deficiencies set forth above with respect to Kanaya.

Applicants respectfully submit therefore that claims 1, 5, 8, 17 and 18 not subject to rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kanaya and/or Kanaya in view of Johnson.

Applicants have added new claim 19. Claim 19 is claim 2 rewritten in independent form. Applicants note that the Office has indicated that claim 2 would be allowable if written in independent form. Accordingly, applicants submit that claim 19 is allowable.

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, applicants submit that the above-identified application is in condition for allowance which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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The Director is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. **18-0350** for any additional fees, or any underpayment or credit for overpayment in connection herewith.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically transmitted to: Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, VA on December 20, 2007.

Kathleen P. Carney

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